

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1–19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently amended) An enteric soft capsule shell formed from a gel mass composition comprising

- (a) a film-forming, water-soluble polymer,
- (b) an acid-insoluble polymer; and
- (c) an alkaline aqueous solvent;

wherein the ratio of acid-insoluble polymer to film-forming, water soluble polymer is from ~~about~~ 30:70 to ~~about~~ 45:55 by weight;

the final pH of the gel mass is less than or equal to about 9 pH units;

and the moisture content of the enteric soft capsule shell formed from the gel mass composition is from about 2% to about 10%.

21–23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently amended) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 20, wherein the film-forming, water-soluble polymer is proteinaceous.

25. (Currently amended) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 24, wherein the proteinaceous film-forming, water-soluble polymer is gelatin.

26. (Previously presented) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 25, wherein the gelatin is extracted from animal bones or skins, and has about 100 to about 250 blooms.

27. (Previously presented) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 20, wherein the film-forming, water-soluble polymer is a carbohydrate.

28. (Previously presented) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 27, wherein the carbohydrate is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and methyl cellulose.

29. (Previously presented) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 20, wherein the acid-insoluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of acrylic and methacrylic acid copolymers, cellulose acetate esters such as phthalate, butyrate, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose phthalate, and salts thereof.
30. (Currently amended) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 20, further comprising at least one plasticizer selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, glycerol, polyethylene glycol, poly-alcohols with 3 to 6 carbon atoms, citric acid, citric acid esters, triethyl citrate, and combinations thereof.
31. (Currently amended) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 20, wherein the alkaline aqueous solvent solution comprises an alkali selected from the group consisting of ammonia, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ethylenediamine, hydroxylamine, and triethanolamine.
32. (Currently amended) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 20, wherein the alkaline aqueous solvent solution comprises a volatile alkali.
33. (Previously presented) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 32, wherein the volatile alkali is selected from the group consisting of ammonia and ethylenediamine.
34. (Currently amended) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 20, wherein the alkaline aqueous solvent solution is a hydroalcoholic solution.
35. (Previously presented) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 20, where the final pH of the gel mass is less than or equal to about 8.5.
36. (Previously presented) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 20, wherein the enteric soft capsule shell has a moisture content of from about 2% to about 10%.
37. (Previously presented) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 36, wherein the moisture content is from about 4% to about 8%.

38. (Previously presented) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 36, wherein the moisture content is about 8%.
39. (Previously presented) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 20, wherein the gel mass compositions comprises a plasticizer, and the ratio of plasticizer to film-forming, water-soluble polymer is from about 1:9 to about 1:1 by weight.
40. (Previously presented) The enteric soft capsule shell of claim 39, wherein the ratio of plasticizer to film-forming, water-soluble polymer is about 1:3 by weight.